

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BORREGO SPRINGS COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, November 5, 2009, 4:30 P.M.
BORREGO SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM
2281 DIEGUENO ROAD, BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92004

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- A. Roll:
PRESENT: Haldeman, Hopkins, King, Shimeall, Shugart, & Webb
ABSENT: Daniels
- B. Members reviewed the maps and various materials that were pertinent to the meeting. It was noted that agenda action item number two is to be stricken from the agenda.
- C. The Minutes for the Meeting October 1, 2009 were approved by the members present.
- D. Public Communication:
Kent Smith, a Borrego property owner thanked the Sponsor Group for sending a letter to the Fire District regarding the second fire station & related financing.
- E. Correspondence :
King reviewed the following correspondence & notices:
King has a copy of the amended zoning ordinance for review.
Notice of public hearing on 11/6, 11/19 & 20 where the Planning Commission is looking at the General Plan including the Borrego Community Plan. The Borrego plan will be reviewed on 11/20 in Room 5201 at the County building at Ruffin Road. King and Haldeman will be attending.
A letter from the Sponsor Group to Supervisor Bill Horn regarding the local fire mitigation policy. Haldeman reviewed the letter and noted that it was decided at the October meeting to send the letter to Bill Horn.
- F. Scheduled &/or Reports of Subcommittees and Meetings:
1. King to report on the Parks Committee formation – King stated that the DPLU funds can be used for the Borrego Community Park site. She has asked Judy Haldeman to chair a Community Park Committee along with representatives from the Borrego Village Association, Anza Borrego Desert Natural History Association, and the Christmas Circle Park Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Project Review – Application for Major Use Permit

Location – Parcels located north of Borrego Springs Airport/APNs 141-210-21 (approx. 9 acres), 141-230-26 (approx. 288 acres), 141-230-33 (approx. 53 acres).

Project Name: Borrego Photovoltaic Solar Farm – Eurus Energy

This project consists of solar generation facilities on three individual parcels of land with additional lands affected to allow for the transport of power generated to the existing Borrego substation.

Project Overview: 35 mgw in size with photovoltaic cells converting D/C to A/C transferred to Borrego substation. The location was selected for high solar insolation, and the am & pm sun being a factor. Cost of land and proximity to substation is also a factor. Land use compatibility, biology and cultural resources impact reports have been done. Noise is minimal with inverters emitting a slight hum, but otherwise virtually silent. No federally or California state species have been listed on the MUP application submitted in August.

Loggerhead Shrike have been found, as well as 14 acres of flat tailed lizard habitat. There is a significant amount of invasive vegetation. There are some cultural resources.

Explained Benefits: Borrego uses 10-12 mgw in August. It can produce as much as 35 mgw. It can in theory produce all of Borrego's power. Upgrades will be done to the substation. Transmission lines do not need to be upgraded, but overhead transmission lines will need to be constructed on the northern boundary. If the Palm Canyon Drive line is used, a new line will need to be put in. A communications office will be staffed locally, most likely downtown. Tours will be available to schools and groups. They will donate land to the State Park on a 2:1 ratio. They are in the process of responding to the first iteration of scoping letter of 11-18. There will be public comment.

Community member Hal Cohen requested that studies be performed relative to the Swainson's Hawk. He feels that they may use that area to roost during migration.

Another neighboring property owner voiced her concerns regarding what she perceived were the negative impacts. Some of these being increase in transmission lines, noise, and visual blight. She also commented on the water use.

King asked that the group review the checklist and make a list of concerns, thereby addressing the group's comments.

Hopkins is concerned about the biology. Webb is concerned about the fact that the property is vacant, and would rather have the panels placed on fallowed citrus. He encouraged Eurus to meet with the BWD.

King would like Eurus to see what they can do for the community. After much discussion Sam Webb made a motion to send a letter to the County with any comments and concerns attached to the scoping letter and project checklist. Clark Shimeall seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous; all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.